WEIRD VAMPIRE TALES

JULY 1979 $1.75

OLD GRAVES, ROTTING COFFINS AND FANGS TWIST INTO A TANGLED ROPE OF BLOODY TERROR

THE BEAUTIFUL AND DEADLY

FANGED HITCHHIKER

THE SPACE VAMPIRES

CURSE OF THE MONSTER TRAP

PLUS

SKIN CRAWLERS
HORROR DOLL
SLIMY THINGS
EVIL IDOL

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Vol. 3 No. 2

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THE VAMPIRES
IT WASN'T A CHAIN REACTION THAT BURNED EARTH BARE, IN THE END! IT WAS FIRE, CLOUDS, RIVERS, OCEANS OF FLAME! STONE AND EARTH MELTED! THE VERY SEAS BOILED! YET, SOMEHOW THERE WERE SURVIVORS!
THESE CREATURES ROAMED THE SHATTERED WORLD! AND IT WAS WITH THESE THAT THE INVADERS WERE CONCERNED WITH LATER... WHEN THEIR SPACESHIP KNIFED IN TO COMPLETE THEIR GRIM WORK!
COMMANDER! I THOUGHT I SAW SOMETHING MOVE BELOW! YES! THERE! IS IT POSSIBLE THAT SOMETHING LIVED THROUGH OUR ATTACK?
POSSIBLE, EVEN IF IMPROBABLE! BUT I SEE IT ALSO! A HUMAN! AND IF THERE'S ONE, THERE WILL BE OTHERS!
OUR ORDERS WERE TO BURN THE THE PLANET CLEAN, SO THAT WHEN IT HAS RENEWED ITSELF, OUR COLONISTS MAY SETTLE UPON IT! WE WERE NOT TO LAND UNLESS IT WAS NECESSARY! NOW IT IS NECESSARY!

BUT IT WOULD BE AN EASY MATTER TO BURN THAT CRAWLING LITTLE THING!
AND IF THERE ARE OTHERS!? WE SHALL LAND AND HUNT THEM DOWN!
LOGIC WAS THE ONE, THE ONLY LAW OF THE CONQUERORS! MEN THOUGH THEY WERE, THEY WERE BEINGS WHO COULD COLDLY SLAUGHTER A WORLD, AND COLDLY HUNT DOWN THE FEW WRETCHES WHO DID NOT DIE!
THE FIRST SCOUT SHIP HAS RETURNED, COMMANDER! TWO PRISONERS! EXTERMINATION?
FIRST THINGS FIRST, CAPTAIN!
DID THESE HUMANS FIGHT BACK? TRY TO ESCAPE?
WHY, NO SIR! THEY SEEMED MEEK, DAZED... AS IF IN SHOCK...
THAT IS TO BE EXPECTED! GIVE THEM FOOD! WE SHALL TAKE THEM WITH US! OUR TECHNICIANS WILL BE GRATEFUL FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO STUDY THEM!
FROM ALL THE CORNERS OF THE SMOLDERING EARTH THE SCOUT SHIPS RETURNED. FROM ASIA, AFRICA, THE AMERICAS! AND EACH BROUGHT WITH IT, IT'S CARGO...
CATTLE! THEY DO NOT RESIST! THEY DO NOT EVEN SEEM TO HATE US!
CATTLE, YES! AND YET SOMEHOW THEY SURVIVED, CAPTAIN! AFTER WE RETURN HOME IT WILL BE INTERESTING TO DISCOVER HOW!
NO EYES SAW THE COMETS THAT STREAKED SKYWARD SOON AFTER! THERE WAS NO ONE LEFT TO WATCH!
NOR DID ANYONE CARE! FOR THE HUMANS SAT QUIETLY, THE FOOD BEFORE THEM UNTOUCHED.
ALL IS WELL, GUARD?
THEY DO NOT EAT, SIR! WHAT'S MORE, I THINK IT IS I WHO IS BEING WATCHED! THEY LOOK AT ME AND WHISPER AMONG THEMSELVES!

I THINK YOUR IMAGINATION IS PLAYING TRICKS WITH YOUR LOGIC! LOGIC IS OUR CREED! USE IT!
YES SIR!
UNEASINESS GREW INTO TENSION UNTIL LOGIC DEMANDED ACTION!
ENOUGH! A HANDFUL OF STARVED HUMANS PENNED IN A CAGE AND YOU TELL ME MY CREW FEARS THEM! WE BURNED THEIR PLANET! YOU MY OFFICERS SHUDDER WHEN YOU PASS THEM!
I UNDERSTAND THEM NO MORE THAN YOU! AS A SOLDIER I FIND THEM DOCILE PRISONERS! MILD! HARMLESS! YOU TECHNICIANS WILL HAVE YOUR SAY WHEN WE REACH HOME PLANET!
SIR! I MEAN NO DISRESPECT, BUT WOULDN'T IT BE SIMPLER TO OPEN A LOCK AND DROP THEM INTO SPACE?
IT WOULD BE SIMPLE! AND ILLOGICAL! I UNDERTOOK TO BRING THE HUMANS TO OUR WORLD! I SEE NO REASON FOR ALTERING THAT DECISION!
AND STILL THE HUMANS SAT SILENT, WHILE THE FLEET RACED ON. UNTIL AT LAST, IT HAPPENED SO SUDDENLY THAT AT FIRST THE COMMANDER HARDLY WAS AWARE IT WAS TAKING PLACE!
WHAT IS IT, CREWMAN?
WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS? HOW DARE YOU BRING THOSE CREATURES ON MY BRIDGE!?
NO ANSWER! A UNIFORMED ROBOT STOOD STIFFLY, AS IF IN A TRANCE! AND FOR THE FIRST TIME, THE COMMANDER KNEW AN EMOTION AGAINST WHICH LOGIC WAS OF NO AVAIL FEAR!
WEAPONS WILL NOT HELP YOU, COMMANDER! NOR AN ALARM! THE OTHERS OF YOUR CREW ARE ALREADY LIKE THIS GUARD! WE GIVE THE ORDERS NOW!
WHY YOU INSOLENT...

...STAND BACK...
IT IS USELESS! YOU CANNOT DRAW YOUR WEAPON, COMMANDER! NOR CAN THE OTHERS!
AND, SO IT WAS! THE COMMANDER COULD READ HIS DOOM IN THOSE LUMINOUS EYES! AS IF HYPNOSIS WERE A GIANT FIST CLOSING UPON HIS BRAIN!
IT'S TRUE! I CAN'T MOVE! AND YOU... YOU SPEAK OUR LANGUAGE!
WE LEARN! WE KNOW MANY THINGS, COMMANDER! WE ARE GRATEFUL TO YOU!
YOUR FIRES COULD NOT HARM US, BUT THEY BURNED DEEP... DEEP!
THEY BURNED AWAY THE ANCIENT CHARMS WITH WHICH MEN MADE US HELPLESS! WE'LL LIVE WELL IN YOUR WORLD!
YOU FREED US, COMMANDER! WE SHALL WALK AGAIN... CONTENTED IN YOUR WORLD!
ONE QUESTION THE COMMANDER MANAGED BEFORE THE DARKNESS CLOSED IN ON HIM: ONE QUESTION AS AN OLD MAN BENT OVER HIM!
YOU SHALL TAKE US THERE! LEAD US TO THIS FRUITFUL PLACE OF YOUR KIND!
WHO... WHAT ARE YOU?
BUT THE ANSWER MEANT NOTHING TO THE COMMANDER!... FOR HIS WORLD OF LOGIC DOES NOT ADMIT THAT THERE CAN BE SUCH THINGS AS THESE!
WE HAVE HAD MANY NAMES DOWN THROUGH THE CENTURIES, COMMANDER! THE PEOPLE YOU DESTROYED CALLED US VAMPIRES!
THE END

THE BLOODY VAMPIRE

THAT NIGHT...
ACCORDING TO THESE RUNICS, GARTH WAS A VAMPIRE, BUT HE WAS ALSO A BRAVE VIKING WARRIOR! WHEN HE WAS KILLED IN BATTLE, HIS COMPANIONS COULDN'T BRING THEMSELVES TO DRIVE A STAKE INTO HIS HEART! INSTEAD THEY LEFT THIS ON THE BODY TO KEEP HIM FROM WALKING AGAIN! BRR!
DO YOU BELIEVE THAT!
HA, HA! SHE REALLY DOES!
AS WORK PROCEEDS THE NEXT DAY...
BRUSH THE DEBRIS AWAY GENTLY! HE'LL PROBABLY CRUMBLE AT TOUCH!
SOMEHOW I DON'T THINK SO! THE BODY IS IN EXCELLENT CONDITION!
A BIG MAN, WASN'T HE!
FINALLY...
WELL, THERE HE IS, GARTH THE VAMPIRE! HE LOOKS PRETTY DEAD TO ME!
YES! I DON'T THINK YOU'VE GOT MUCH TO WORRY ABOUT!
OKAY, SO I'M JUST A SILLY WOMAN! BUT HE STILL GIVES ME THE CREEPS!
WHAT THEY DO NOT SEE!
THAT NIGHT...
DON'T ALLOW ANYONE NEAR, THIS IS A VERY IMPORTANT DISCOVERY!
BUT AS THE MOON REACHES ITS ZENITH...
HO, GARTH IS FREE AT LAST! AND GARTH IS HUNGRY!
WHAT A LOT OF BUNK! WHY GUARD A CORPSE!
DON'T WORRY, SIR! I'LL MIND HIM LIKE HE WAS MY OWN BROTHER!

LATER...
I THOUGHT I HEARD A SCREAM! DID YOU HEAR IT?
BETTER WATCH YOUR NERVES, MARCIA!
EEEEEE! LOOK! IT'S HIM! IT'S THE VIKING! OHHH...
GREAT SCOTT, IT IS! COME ON, MOBRAY! WE'VE GOT TO INVESTIGATE!
BUT A MOMENT LATER...
THE GUARD-MURDERED! UGH, LOOK AT HIS THROAT! LOOKS AS THOUGH A WILD BEAST'S BEEN AT IT!
YES, POOR DEVIL! AND THE VIKING'S BODY IS GONE!
MABORY, A VILLAIN AT HEART, GETS AN IDEA OF HIS OWN!
BUT HOW IN THE WORLD?
THEN YOU REALLY THINK THAT THE VAMPIRE IS WALKING AGAIN?
WHO ELSE?
I'M AFRAID SHE'S RIGHT, MOBRAY! THAT FIEND IS UNDEAD, AND HE KILLED THE GUARD! BUT WE CAN'T GO TO THE POLICE WITH A STORY LIKE THIS! WE MUST FIND HIM AND DESTROY HIM OURSELVES!
DO YOU THINK WE CAN?
RISKY!
HMM! I WONDER IF FLOYD IS TRYING TO STEAL ALL THE CREDIT FOR THIS DISCOVERY? IT'S POSSIBLE - BUT I'LL FIX THAT!

FLOYD COULD HAVE AN ACCOMPLICE, AND THE ACCOMPLICE COULD HAVE KILLED THE GUARD AND STOLEN THE BODY OF THE VIKING! THAT MAKES IT EASY TO BLAME ANYTHING ON THE VAMPIRE... EVEN MY DEATH! BUT I'VE GOT A BETTER PLAN THAN THAT!
FLOYD!
YOU SHOULDN'T BE OUT HERE ALONE WITH THAT THING ROAMING AROUND!
HUH! OH YOU STARTLED ME! BUT WE'LL GET IT...
YOU'LL GET IT FIRST, AND THE VAMPIRE'LL GET THE BLAME! AND I'LL GET THE CREDIT FOR FINDING THIS BARROW! SORT OF WHAT YOU HAD IN STORE FOR ME, EH?
YOOOWW!!
THE ICEPICK WAS A GOOD CHOICE OF WEAPONS! A VAMPIRE'S TEETH MIGHT MAKE HOLES LIKE THAT---IF THERE HAD EVER BEEN A VAMPIRE!
MOMENTS LATER...
MOBRAY! WHAT ON EARTH-OH, THAT ICEPICK, ALL BLOODY! HAVE YOU GONE CRAZY?
NOT AS CRAZY AS YOU AND FLOYD THOUGHT! I KNOW YOU STARTED ALL THIS ABOUT A VAMPIRE!
YOU THOUGHT YOU COULD KILL ME AND BLAME IT ON A NON-EXISTANT FIEND! TO MAKE IT LOOK BETTER YOU KILLED THE GUARD TOO! TELL ME, WHO'S WORKING WITH YOU? I HAVE TO GET YOU ALL!
STAY BACK! I'VE GOT A GUN!

YOU'RE INSANE, MOWBRAY! KEEP BACK, OR I'LL SHOOT! I MEAN IT!
YOU LITTLE WITCH! YOU HAVEN'T GOT THE NERVE!
MOWBRAY MAKES A SUDDEN LEAP AND MARCIA FIRES!
NO! D-DON'T! I DON'T WANT TO KILL YOU! OHHHH!
I D-DIDN'T WANT TO KILL HIM! B-BUT HE WAS GOING TO KILL ME! I'VE GOT TO FIND HELP!
THE NEAR FAINTING GIRL HEARS A HORRIBLE LAUGH BEHIND HER...
EEEEEEE! GARTH, THE VAMPIRE! OHHHH
YES, I AM GARTH! AND NOW THEY ARE ALL DEAD BUT YOU!
HA HA HA HEE HEE!
YOU VILE CREATURE, YOU'RE DEAD! D-DON'T TOUCH ME!
N-HO HO! I AM UNDEAD... AND YOUR BULLETS CANNOT HARM ME!
BUT GARTH HAS A SURPRISE FOR YOU! HE IS NOT GOING TO KILL YOU! NO INDEED! FOR YOU HE HAS OTHER PLANS!
SEE HOW GENTLE I AM! I WILL NOT (CHUCKLE) HARM YOU!

IN MOMENTS GARTHS POISON FANGS DO THEIR DEADLY WORK AND AN EVIL VENOM ENTERS MARCIAS BLOODSTREAM!

I AM YOUR MASTER NOW! YOU WILL OBEY ME IN ALL THINGS! YOU ARE ONE OF THE *UNDEAD*, AS I AM! NOW RISE AND DO MY BIDDING!

YES, MASTER! I UNDERSTAND! I AM ALSO A VAMPIRE!

BURN EVERYTHING... THEN GET ME SOME OF THESE FOOLISH CLOTHES YOUR MEN WEAR! YOU CAN MAKE THE ODD CART MOVE WITHOUT HORSES?

YOU MEAN THE AUTOMOBILE! YES, MASTER!

WE WILL FIND A HOUSE SOMEWHERE! YOU WILL FIND IT IS NOT SO BAD A THING TO BE A VAMPIRE!

YES, MASTER!

MUCH LATER...

WE ARE MORE THAN 500 MILES FROM THE BARROW! SHALL WE LOOK FOR A COTTAGE?

YES, I THINK I SEE A PLACE JUST AHEAD!

THIS COTTAGE IS FINE! WE'LL TAKE IT!

SURE! BUT I'M SURPRISED JUST THE SAME! WE FIND THIS HARD TO RENT! THE-ER-GRAVEYARD, YOU KNOW!

HA, IF THAT FOOL ONLY KNEW, HEY, MARCIA! WE'LL FIND SUITABLE COFFINS FOR EACH OF US AND SLEEP IN THEM BY DAY! AT NIGHT WE WILL ROAM THE COUNTRY-SIDE AND FIND OUR PREY!

YES, MASTER! I KNOW WE'LL BE VERY HAPPY HERE!

THE END

the VAMPIRE MONSTER TRAP

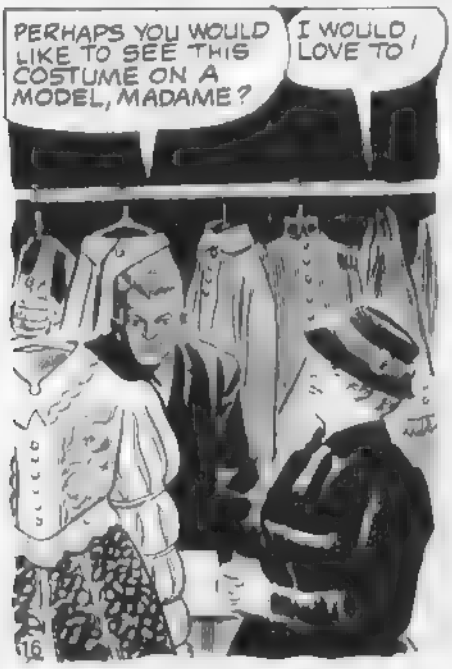
"OUT OF THE FRYING PAN INTO THE FIRE" IS AN OLD WARNING NO ONE SHOULD IGNORE... NOT EVEN A... MURDERER!

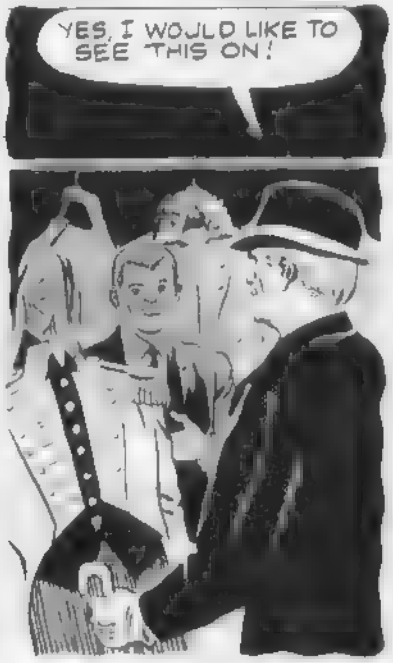
A SHAFT OF LIGHT IS A LAST DESPERATE HOPE FOR ESCAPE!
LEMME IN! LEMME IN!

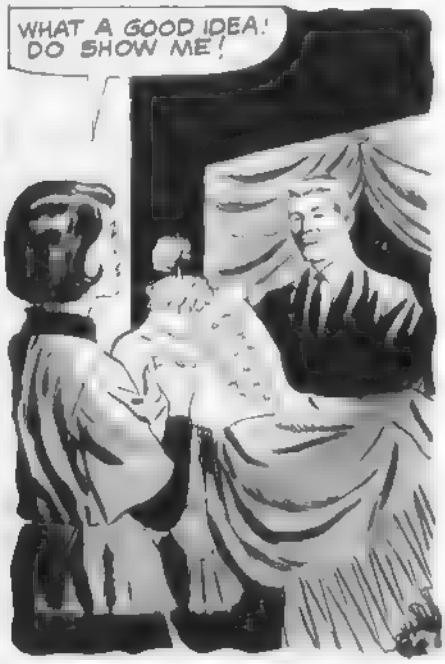
YOU MAY ENTER... IF YOU LIKE!

I'LL DO ANYTHING YOU WANT--BUT HIDE ME FROM THE COPS!
IF YOU MEAN THAT, I'LL HELP YOU!

EVERY DAY THE MURDERER LURES A VICTIM FOR THE GHASTLY COLLECTION! IT WAS ALL SO EASY TO BEGIN WITH...







BUT BLOODY DEEDS CANNOT BE WASHED AWAY BY SLEEP!
YOU WILL JOIN US, SOON, MY FRIEND!

THE NIGHTMARES CONTINUED...AND A WEEK LATER..
YOU SAID YOU WOULD DO ANYTHING! HAVE YOU CHANGED YOUR MIND ALREADY?
I CAN'T GO ON! THEY WON'T LET ME FORGET!

I'M NOT A WELCHER-- I-- I'LL GO ON!

HAVE YOU ANY PIRATE COSTUMES?
W-WAIT A MINUTE... I'LL G-GO AND S-SEE!

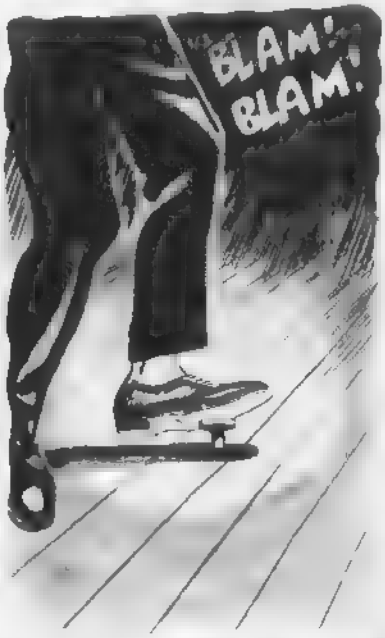
ONE OF THEM'S COME BACK! HE'S DRIPPING WAX ALL OVER THE FLOOR!
RUBBISH! PULL YOURSELF TOGETHER!

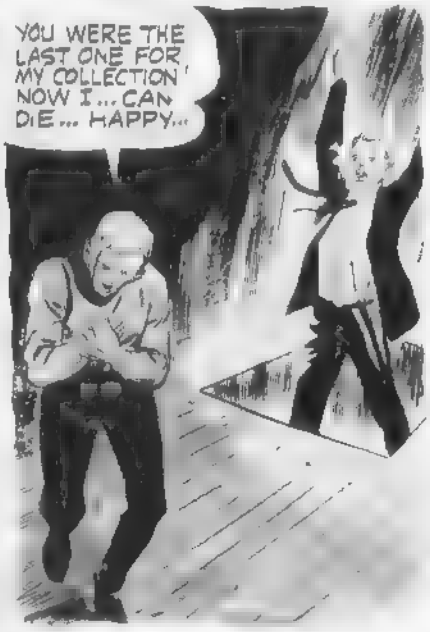
YOU'RE IMAGINING THINGS AGAIN... THERE'S NOTHING HERE!

THIS IS THE LAST STRAW! I'VE GOT TO STOP BEFORE I GO CRAZY! I'M THROUGH.. FINISHED! GET SOMEBODY ELSE TO DO YOUR DIRTY WORK!
WE MADE A BARGAIN--

YES...

...AND THIS IS THE END OF IT!


BLAM! BLAM!


YOU WERE THE LAST ONE FOR MY COLLECTION! NOW I... CAN DIE... HAPPY...

AIEEE!

WE WERE EXPECTING YOU!
THE END

VAMPIRE

NEVER-NEVER-NEVER PICK UP A STRANGER! BOTH OF THEM KNEW THAT! YET WHEN THE STRANGER WAS A PRETTY GIRL, DYING IN HER OWN BLOOD, WHAT COULD THEY DO? AND HOW COULD THEY GUESS THE HORRIBLE FATE THAT LAY IN WAIT? BUT AT LEAST THEY COULDN'T MAKE THE SAME MISTAKE TWICE, BECAUSE WHEN YOU ARE DEAD, YOU CAN'T STOP FOR THE STRANGER IN THE DARK!

DR LYNN WILLIS, AND HIS NURSE, MARY HITCHCOCK DRIVE ON A LONELY ROAD...

THIS IS A SPOOKY OLD ROAD, LYNN! AND WITH THAT FIEND LOOSE...

THEY'LL CATCH THAT LUNATIC BEFORE LONG, HONEY! ANYWAY, I'M WITH YOU! HEY-SOMETHING IN THE ROAD!

THE LIGHTS PICK UP A GRISLY SIGHT...

IT'S A GIRL! PROBABLY SOME HIT AND RUN DRIVER!
OR THE ESCAPED LUNATIC! MAYBE HE...

IS SHE ALIVE?
JUST BARELY! A TERRIBLE WOUND IN HER CHEST! SHE'S LOST A LOT OF BLOOD!

HOW IS SHE NOW?
I'VE STOPPED THE BLEEDING, BUT HER HEART IS VERY WEAK! CAN'T YOU GO FASTER, BABY!?

DO YOU THINK SHE WAS ATTACKED BY THE FIEND?
THAT'S FOR THE POLICE! OUR JOB IS TO SAVE HER LIFE!

WE'LL TAKE HER TO MY PLACE! IT'S CLOSER THAN THE HOSPITAL, AND TIME IS PRECIOUS!
THEN HURRY! I'LL DRIVE!

MINUTES LATER...
IF SHE LIVES SHE'LL BE LUCKY! LUCKY THAT YOU FOUND HER, DARLING, AND THAT YOU LIVE SO CLOSE!
AND LUCKY ALSO, THAT I DATE MY NURSE! BETTER GET SOME WHOLE BLOOD NOW!

BLAST IT, MARY, WHERE ARE THE RUBBER GLOVES? I HAVEN'T A PAIR THAT'S STERILE!
THERE SHOULD BE SOME IN THE STOREROOM!

GOOD GIRL! I'LL GET A PAIR AND BE RIGHT BACK! HOW DOES SHE LOOK?
I THINK HER COLOR IS BETTER, BUT HURRY!

THAT CHEST WOUND - VERY ODD! THAT FIEND LUNATIC NEVER ATTACKED ANYONE THAT WAY BEFORE! BUT MAYBE HE'S CHANGING HIS METHODS! AH, THE GLOVES!
GLOVES

MEANWHILE MARY REPLENISHES THE SUPPLY OF BLOOD...
POOR THING! HER VEINS WERE ALMOST EMPTY! I'LL NEED AT LEAST ANOTHER BOTTLE!

AS SHE TURNS
EEEEEEEE-
I'LL TAKE THAT!

OH-NO-PLEASE! AAAGHH!
GREAT SCOTT! THAT'S MARY SCREAMING! THE LUNATIC MUST BE HERE!

HEAVENS! HE GOT IN THE WINDOW, ATTACKED MARY, AND FLED! DIDN'T HARM THE OTHER GIRL! MAYBE I CAN SAVE MARY!

BUT MOMENTS LATER, WITH A HEAVY HEART HE CALLED THE POLICE...
THIS IS DR. WILLIS, 314 SUTHERLAND DRIVE! COME AT ONCE! THAT LUNATIC HAS JUST MURDERED MY NURSE!
SURE, DOC! I'M SORRY ABOUT YOUR LITTLE NURSE! WE'LL GET THAT MONSTER! MEANWHILE WE'LL PUT A GUARD AROUND THE HOUSE!
WE'LL BE RIGHT THERE DOCTOR!
HOURS LATER..
YOU UNDERSTAND ABOUT THE GIRL, OFFICER? I DARE NOT MOVE HER TO A HOSPITAL YET!
AS HE RENEWS HIS FIGHT TO SAVE A GIRLS LIFE...
IRONIC! I LOSE MY GIRL TRYING TO SAVE ANOTHER ONE! IF ONLY WE HADN'T STOPPED--
BUT ALMOST IMMEDIATELY A STRANGE THING HAPPENS
HUH! SHE'S TRYING TO GET UP! THIS IS IMPOSSIBLE! NO ONE EVER RECOVERED THIS QUICKLY FROM SUCH A TERRIBLE WOUND!
OHH- I- WHO- WHERE AM I? W-WHO ARE YOU?
YOU MUST BE A DOCTOR! YOU FOUND ME ON THE ROAD?
YOU MUSTN'T TALK, YOU'VE LOST A LOT OF BLOOD!
BLOOD? OH YES, I REMEMBER IT ALL NOW! HE TOOK ME TO THAT LONELY PLACE! HE TRIED TO KILL ME!
WHAT? YOU KNOW WHO DID THIS TO YOU? THEN YOU CAN HELP THE POLICE! I'LL CALL THEM, AND...

BUT AS HE STARTS FOR THE DOOR.
NO, PLEASE! NOT THE POLICE! NOT YET! I-I'M SO THIRSTY!
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND! THE POLICE ARE HERE NOW! JUST OUTSIDE! AND REALLY, YOU MUST NOT EXERT YOURSELF!
PLEASE! LET ME TELL YOU WHAT HAPPENED FIRST! BEFORE I PASS OUT AGAIN!
GOOD IDEA!
MY HUSBAND! HE SHOVED THE SHARP STICK AT MY HEART!
THIS MAN HATED ME! HE TOOK ME TO THAT PLACE... HE HAD A SHARP STICK ..
HE STABBED YOU WITH IT! WHAT MAN?
GOOD HEAVENS! BUT WAIT- THE ESCAPED LUNATIC ISN'T MARRIED!
LUNATIC? I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THAT! ALL I KNOW IS THAT MY HUSBAND FOUND OUT ABOUT ME!
FOUND OUT- OH I SEE! NOW TAKE IT EASY, MY DEAR!
SHE'S RAVING! HAVE TO HUMOR HER!
...BUT HE MISSED MY HEART! NEXT THING I REMEMBER WAS WAKING UP HERE! THERE WAS A GIRL, AND BLOOD, AND I WAS SO TERRIBLY THIRSTY...
A GIRL! MARY! AND YOU WERE THIRSTY! OH-NO!
YES! I'M A VAMPIRE!
YAAAAA
THE END

IN THE STEAMING, CRAWLING DARKNESS OF THE FLORIDA SWAMP COUNTRY, THE GHASTLY SPECTERS OF HORROR PLAN A MURDER...SHOWING THAT THERE ARE...

SPIRITS OF THE WITCH

The DREADFUL THOUGHT OF MURDER WAS PUT INTO ACTION! AN INVITATION WAS SENT AND ACCEPTED AND FROM THE NORTH CAME AUNT LENORE!
DEAR AUNT LENORE... YOU DON'T KNOW HOW JAMES AND I HAVE BEEN LOOKING FORWARD TO-- BEEING YOU HERE!

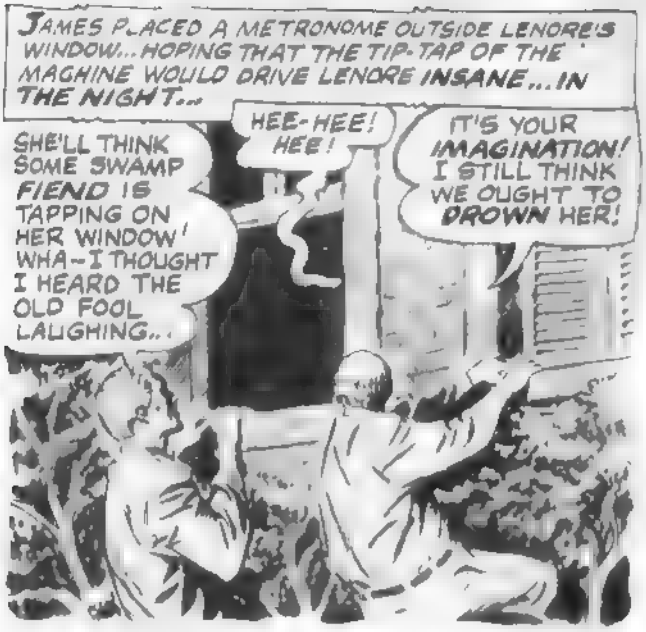
HERE'S YOUR ROOM, AUNTIE... WE HOPE YOU WILL ENJOY YOUR STAY WITH US!
IT'S.. LOVELY! THANK YOU, NEPHEWS... NOW PLEASE EXCUSE ME! I MUST PREPARE SOME THINGS!

THOSE FOOLS! LITTLE DO THEY KNOW WHAT THEIR AUNT LENORE IS... HOW I HAVE MASTERED THE BLACK ARTS! HEE! HEE! I KNOW WHAT THEY WANT TO DO!

SPIRITS OF THE SHADOW... HEAR ME! I, YOUR SISTER OF DARKNESS CALLS YOU! PHANTOMS OF EVIL ARISE TO DO BATTLE AGAINST MY NEPHEW!

I SEE YOU, MESSENGER OF DEATH! YOU ANSWERED MY CALL! WE WILL KILL... KILL THOSE WHO WOULD KILL ME!

I'M ALL FOR DROWNING HER... RIGHT HERE... IN THE POOL!
NO, YOU FOOL! WE CAN FORGE A SUICIDE NOTE FOR HER... AND HANG HER! WAIT-- I HAVE A BETTER IDEA...


JAMES PLACED A METRONOME OUTSIDE LENORE'S WINDOW... HOPING THAT THE TIP-TAP OF THE MACHINE WOULD DRIVE LENORE INSANE... IN THE NIGHT...
SHE'LL THINK SOME SWAMP FIEND IS TAPPING ON HER WINDOW! WHA-I THOUGHT I HEARD THE OLD FOOL LAUGHING...
HEE-HEE! HEE!
IT'S YOUR IMAGINATION! I STILL THINK WE OUGHT TO DROWN HER!

ALONE IN THEIR ROOM, IN THE DEAD OF NIGHT, JAMES, AND LESLIE LISTENED FOR THE WEIRD TAPPING SOUND...
I HEAR IT IT SOUNDS SO STRANGE..
YES... IT SEEMS TOO NEAR... TOO LOUD..

LESLIE... IT'S LOUDER... IT SEEMS TO BE COMING FROM THIS ROOM!
TAP TAP TAP

NO! NO! EEEYAHH! L-LOOK, J-JAMES... LOOK!

THE WINDOW-- LOOK-- LOOK AT THE WINDOW! THE-THE TAPPING WAS HERE... IT'S COMING IN-- IN HERE!!
TAP

EEEEEYAAARRRGHH!!
TAP

BUT THE BRIGHTNESS OF THE NEXT MORNING TOLD THE MURDER-BENT BROTHERS THAT THE TAPPINGS HAD ALL BEEN A BAD DREAM...
OH-H, THAT SPECTRAL HAND...SEEMED SO REAL!
WE SHOULD HAVE HUNG HER AND HAD IT OVER WITH! QUIET...HERE SHE COMES!

GOOD MORNING, AUNTIE! I HOPE YOU-- SLEPT WELL!
GRACIOUS, YES! HEE! HEE! IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME, I'D LIKE TO WALK AROUND THE GROUNDS BEFORE BREAKFAST!

SHE...SHE DIDN'T HEAR A SOUND? WE BETTER DROWN HER! THE STRAIN IS TOO MUCH FOR ME!
WAIT! I HAVE ONE MORE IDEA FOR DRIVING HER MAD... IF THAT FAILS, WE CAN HANG HER OR DROWN HER...

WE'LL PAINT THIS ON HER CEILING IN PHOSPHORESCENT PAINT! SHE WON'T BE ABLE TO SEE IT IN THE DAYTIME, BUT AT NIGHT, IT WILL GLOW...!

LET ME KNOW AS SOON AS YOU SEE HER COMING! BRRR! THIS HORRIBLE FACE GIVES ME THE CREEPS... IT'S ALMOST ALIVE... WATCHING!
I GET THE SAME FEELING! HURRY.. LET'S GET THIS OVER WITH!

THAT HORRIBLE FACE SHOULD SCARE HER TO DEATH...
...AND THERE'S NO WAY FOR HER TO FIND OUT WE WERE EVER HERE!

AND IN THE STILL OF THE NIGHT...
COME, MY FRIENDS OF THE NIGHT... VENGEANCE UPON MY NEPHEWS...

HEH-HEH! I CAN'T WAIT TO HEAR THE OLD WOMAN SCREAM!
J-JAMES... (GASP)...LOO-- LOOK UP AT OUR...OUR CEILING... LOOK...

ON--ON OUR CEILING? WHA-- WHAT IS IT--
EEEEEE! JAMES! IT--IT'S MOVING!

NO! NO! YAARRR!

HAAAARRGHGH!
HA! HA! HA! HA! HA!

T-THAT WAS NO NIGHTMARE LAST NIGHT! OUR HAIR... TURNED WHITE! I CAN'T STAND IT ANY MORE... LET'S DROWN HER NOW!
JAMES! LESLIE! OH, THERE YOU ARE...

WHAT HAPPENED... YOU BOTH LOOK TEN YEARS OLDER! WHAT HAPPENED?
DO YOU MEAN TO SAY THAT YOU HEARD NOTHING LAST NIGHT?
YOU DIDN'T... SEE ANYTHING?

ARE YOU TRYING TO FRIGHTEN ME? YOU SOUND ALMOST AS IF YOU'D SEEN GHOSTS... OR VISIONS... ON YOUR CEILING!

ON THE CEILING! YOU-YOU DID SEE THEM! YOU'RE TRYING TO DRIVE US CRAZY... JUST AS WE PLANNED TO DO TO YOU! I'LL KILL YOU!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? PUT ME DOWN!
YOU DID HEAR NOISES, LENORE... YOU FIEND! FIEND! FIEND!

DIE! DIE! NOW WE'LL HAVE YOUR MONEY AND OUR SANITY!
DROWN, YOU WITCH! DROWN AND STRANGLE...
AIIYEE!
SPLASH!

LOOK AT THE BLOOD! SHE MUST'VE STRUCK HER HEAD!
LEAVE HER THERE... I CAN'T BEAR TO TOUCH HER..

MAD WITH TERROR AS THEY WATCHED THE MONSTROUS THING IN FRONT OF THEM, LESLIE AND JAMES DID NOT SEE THE GHOSTLY HANDS THAT SILENTLY OPENED THE WINDOW BEHIND THEM...

NOW YOU WILL EACH DIE AS YOU HAD PLANNED FOR ME TO DIE! HAHAHRGGGG!
STAY AWAY-Y! AARGHH!

CRAZED WITH ALARM, THE BROTHERS FELL! JAMES WHO WANTED TO HANG LENORE...
I'M FALLING! THE VINES... THEY-- ULP.. ARGH-H!

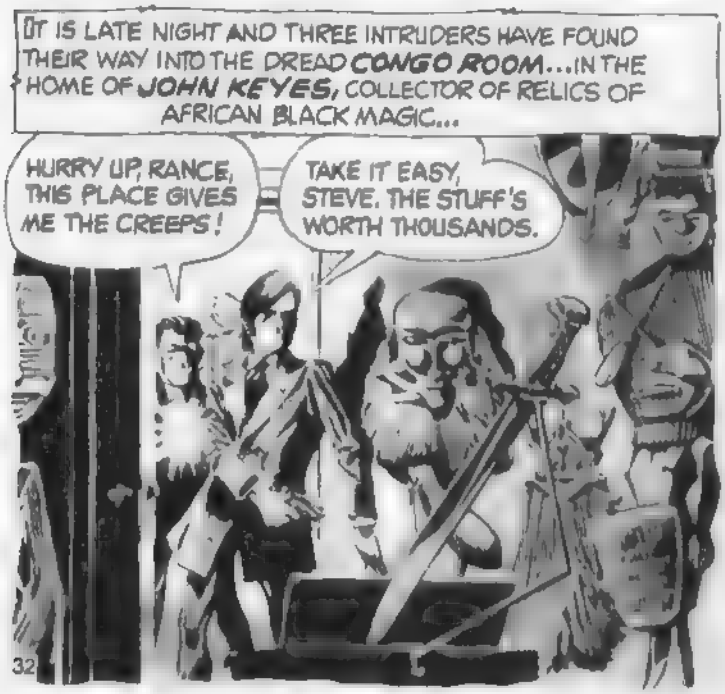
...AND LESLIE, WHO WANTED TO DROWN HER..
EEEYAA-A.. MY HEAD...

THE NEXT MORNING...
WHAT A TERRIBLE SHOCK FOR A POOR OLD DEAR LIKE YOU... MAYBE YOU'D BETTER GO BACK HOME TODAY! WE'LL FIND THE MURDERER!
OH--THE POOR BOYS! YES... I CAN'T STAND IT HERE... SOB... SOB!

WHAT A SWEET, OLD LADY!
MAY I GET ANYTHING FOR YOU, MA'AM? ARE YOU ON FOR A LONG VOYAGE?
NO THANK YOU, STEWARD... I'M JUST TAKING A SHORT TRIP AWAY FROM MY HOME IN THE FLORIDA SWAMPS... FOR MY HEALTH..

BUT, BACK AT THE GHASTLY DEATH-SCENE...
THIS IS GOING TO BE A TOUGH CASE TO SOLVE... THIS ONE IN THE POOL MUST'VE HIT HIS HEAD FIRST! SEE ALL THE BLOOD?
YEAH... SAY... LOOK HERE! WET FOOTPRINTS FROM THE POOL! GREAT SCOTT! THEY LOOK LIKE THE FOOTPRINTS ...OF...A... LITTLE OLD LADY...!!!
THE END

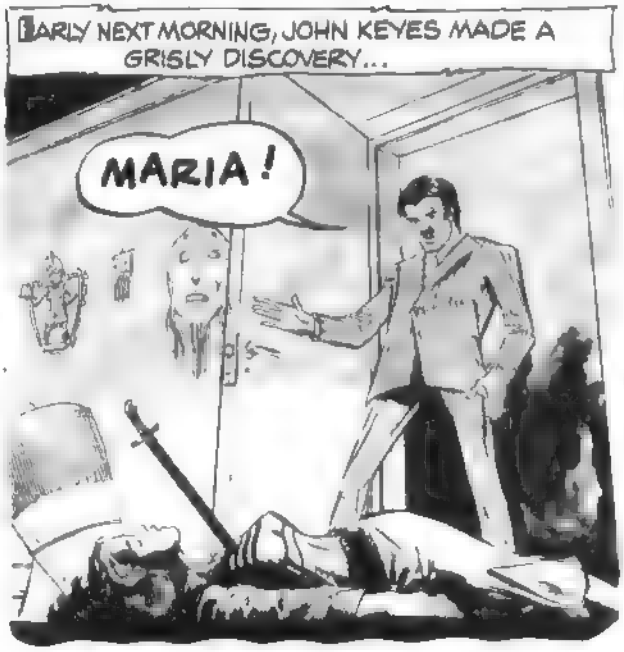
THE EVIL IDOL



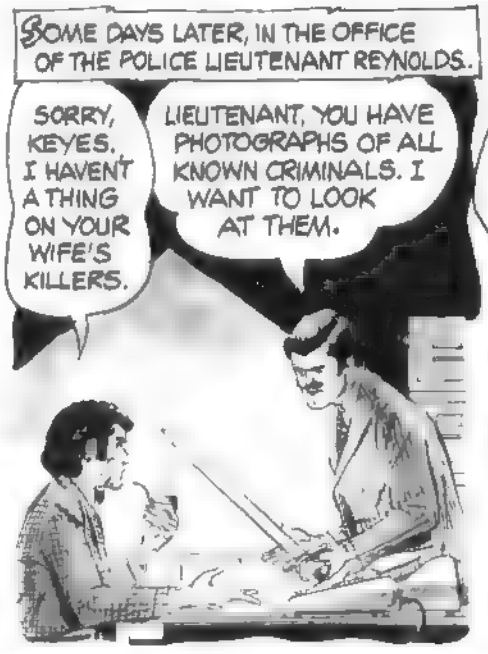
TOO BAD YOU GOT A LOOK AT ME, LADY! I HAVE TO MAKE SURE YOU DON'T FINGER ME!
J-JOHN... H--MMMM!
KLIK!

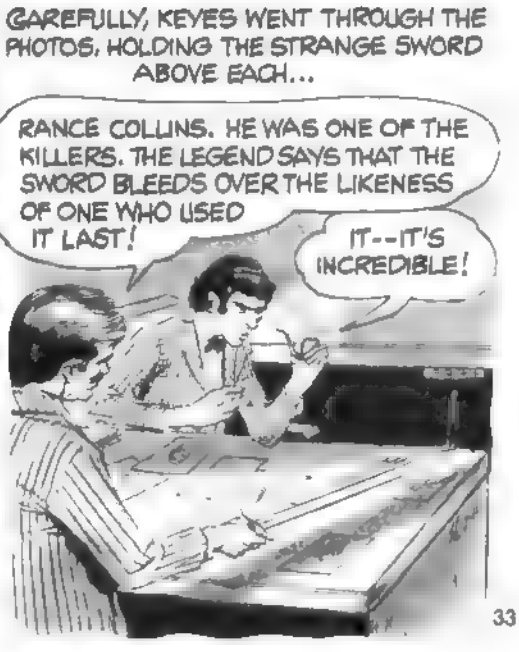
A GUN WOULD MAKE TOO MUCH NOISE. THIS GADGET OUGHT TO DO THE TRICK.
SACRED SERPENT SWORD OF SARAB!

DON'T WORRY, BOYS! NO ONE'S LAYING THIS JOB AT OUR DOORSTEP. I GOT A PERFECT ALIBI ALL SET UP FOR THE THREE OF US!


EARLY NEXT MORNING, JOHN KEYES MADE A GRISLY DISCOVERY...
MARIA!

REST WELL, MY DEAR. THE FOOLS USED THE SACRED SWORD. YOU WILL BE AVENGED.


SOME DAYS LATER, IN THE OFFICE OF THE POLICE LIEUTENANT REYNOLDS.
SORRY, KEYES. I HAVENT A THING ON YOUR WIFE'S KILLERS.
LIEUTENANT, YOU HAVE PHOTOGRAPHS OF ALL KNOWN CRIMINALS. I WANT TO LOOK AT THEM.


CAREFULLY, KEYES WENT THROUGH THE PHOTOS, HOLDING THE STRANGE SWORD ABOVE EACH...
RANCE COLLINS. HE WAS ONE OF THE KILLERS. THE LEGEND SAYS THAT THE SWORD BLEEDS OVER THE LIKENESS OF ONE WHO USED IT LAST!
IT--IT'S INCREDIBLE!

RANCE COLLINS. STEVE MADROGI. MAC WILKINS. THEY ARE MY WIFE'S MURDERERS.
YOU'D BETTER LEAVE POLICE WORK TO THE POLICE...AND NOT RELY ON BLACK MAGIC!... I'VE ALREADY QUESTIONED THEM, AND THEY HAVE PERFECT ALIBIS.

BESIDES, YOU'D HARDLY EXPECT ANY COURT TO TAKE SUCH NONSENSE AS EVIDENCE.
I TAKE IT SERIOUSLY...AND I'M SURE MY WIFE'S KILLERS WILL, TOO, BEFORE I'M THROUGH WITH THEM, GOOD DAY, LIEUTENANT!

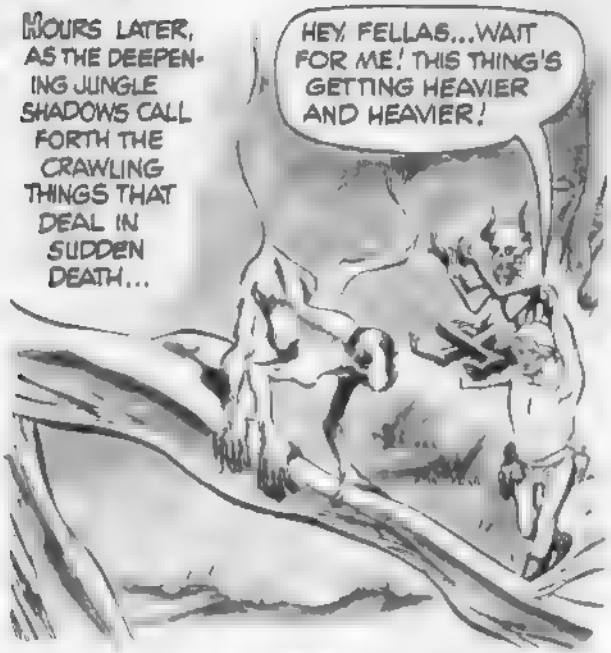
SOME DAYS LATER...
HEY, RANCE...THEY'RE LIKE A TRINKET WE PICKED UP AT THE KEYES' HOUSE. THINK IT'S A TRAP?
MAYBE...BUT WE HAVE A PERFECT ALIBI...AND WE CAN ALWAYS SAY WE FOUND THIS ONE. LET'S GO.
RARE CONGO AMULETS WORTH FORTUNE TO OWNER FMR CONTACTS M. SPERETI 3 CLAYTON ST

PRESENTLY...
YOU THE GENT THAT SAID ONE OF THESE WAS WORTH A FORTUNE!
YES...BUT I HOPE MY LITTLE AD WASN'T MISLEADING. THAT AMULET IS VALUABLE ONLY BECAUSE IT IS PART OF A CHARM THAT GUARDS RANU AGAINST EVIL SPIRITS....A NATIVE CONGO IDOL. HE WHO WEARS IT MAY STEAL RANU WITHOUT HARM!

...AND I AM OFFERING $200,000 IF YOU BRING RANU TO ME. I WILL PAY FOR YOUR PASSAGE, AND ARRANGE TO HAVE SUPPLIES AND INSTRUCTIONS READY WHEN YOU REACH AFRICA.
TWO HUNDRED GRAND FOR A WOODEN STATUE? YOU GOT YOURSELF THREE DELIVERY BOYS, MISTER!

HA-HA! I KNEW THEIR GREED WOULD TRAP THEM! THE AMULET WON'T PROTECT THEM AGAINST RANU! NOTHING WILL. REST EASILY, MARIA. YOUR MURDERERS ARE SPEEDING TO THEIR DOOM!

WEEKS LATER, DEEP IN THE SWAMPLAND BORDERING THE CONGO...
I'LL BE GLAD WHEN THIS TRIP IS OVER. I'D RATHER BE DEAD THAN LIVE IN A MUCK HOLE LIKE THIS!
QUIET, RANCE! I SEE RANU-- THROUGH THIS CLEARING!
ACCORDING TO THE INFO THAT GUY GAVE US, THE WITCH DOCTOR GUARDS RANU WITH HIS LIFE.
RANU...BWAMAY... ATTONAH...MY LIFE IS YOUR LIFE, RANU.
GOT HIM! FIRE OVER THEIR HEADS AND SCARE THEM AWAY!
BANG
SOME PEOPLE MIGHT CALL THIS BABY UGLY...BUT TO ME, HE'S THE PRETIEST THING I'VE EVER SEEN...200 GRAND WORTH OF PRETTY!
COME ON, STEVE. THE SOONER I GET OUT OF THIS PLACE, THE BETTER I LIKE IT.
I...I'M SCARED, RANCE. I GOT A LOOK AT ONE OF THOSE NATIVES AND HE WAS GRINNING. WH-WHY SHOULD HE SMILE?
MAYBE THEY DIDN'T LIKE THE WITCH DOCTOR AND ARE GLAD WE BUMPED HIM OFF.
RANU COME BACK.


HOURS LATER, AS THE DEEPENING JUNGLE SHADOWS CALL FORTH THE CRAWLING THINGS THAT DEAL IN SUDDEN DEATH...
HEY, FELLAS...WAIT FOR ME! THIS THING'S GETTING HEAVIER AND HEAVIER!

RANCE...COME BACK... IT...IT'S TANGLED IN A TREE!
WELL, UNTANGLE IT, AND COME ON. WE'LL WAIT HERE.

ALL RIGHT, I'LL... AAAAHHH...IT... IT'S.... HELP!

HE...HE GOT CAUGHT IN THEM HANDS! GET HIM DOWN... QUICK!

RANCE! HE... HE'S DEAD... STRANGLED...
WE GOTTA GET OUTTA HERE...BUT THERE'S SOMETHING ELSE WE HAVE TO DO FIRST!

WH-WHAT ARE YOU DOING, RANCE?
I'M GONNA ROAST THAT LITTLE WOODEN DEVIL TO ASHES! MAYBE I'M CRAZY BURNING TWO HUNDRED GRAND WORTH OF IDOL. BUT I WANT TO GET OUT OF THIS JUNGLE ALIVE!

ALL RIGHT...LET'S GET MOVING NOW... FAST!

A LITTLE LATER...
RANCE...DO YOU HEAR IT? SOMETHING CRASHING BEHIND US. DO YOU THINK IT'S...
IT...IT'S AN ANIMAL! IT...IT'S GOTTA BE!

RANCE! I...I CAN'T PULL THE TRIGGER! I'M SCARED!

RANCE...HELP ME... HELP ME!!

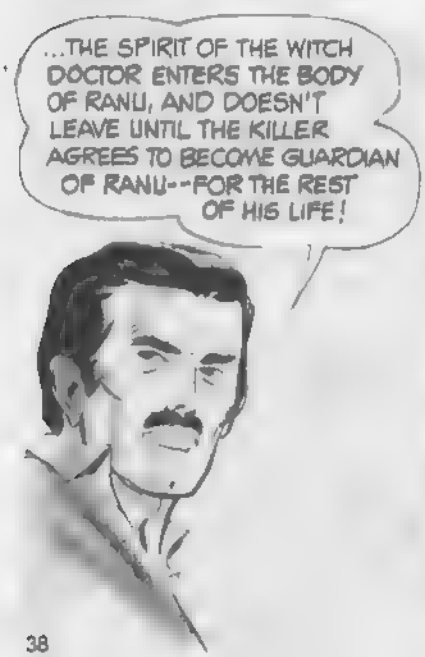
I...I.... ARRRGHH!

NO...NO...NO...DON'T KILL ME LIKE YOU DID THE OTHERS. ANYTHING...ONLY NOT THAT.

LEAD, RANU. I UNDERSTAND. I FOLLOW. WHEREEVER YOU GO, I WILL FOLLOW.

SOME WEEKS LATER, IN THE HOME OF JOHN KEYES...
I'VE JUST RECEIVED WORD THAT STEVE MADROGI AND MAC WILKINS HAVE BEEN FOUND IN THE JUNGLE... STRANGLED, MR. KEYES. YOU MADE A THREAT AWHILE BACK...
SO I DID. THE WAYS OF THE JUNGLE ARE STRANGE, LIEUTENANT...

NATURALLY. I CAN'T CHARGE YOU WITH A THING, BUT I'M CURIOUS. THE REPORTS MENTIONED SOMETHING ABOUT AN IDOL NAMED RANU, BUT THE FATE OF RANCE IS UNKNOWN. WHAT DO YOU THINK HAPPENED TO HIM?
I CAN ONLY TELL YOU WHAT THE NATIVES BELIEVE THAT WHEN SOMEONE KILLS THE WITCH DOCTOR WHO GUARDS RANU...


...THE SPIRIT OF THE WITCH DOCTOR ENTERS THE BODY OF RANU, AND DOESN'T LEAVE UNTIL THE KILLER AGREES TO BECOME GUARDIAN OF RANU--FOR THE REST OF HIS LIFE!

RANU...BWAMAY... ATTONAH...MY LIFE IS YOUR LIFE, RANU.
THE END!

WHAT STRANGE AND GHASTLY SECRETS HAD THE ANCIENT INN TO TELL? WHAT EVIL POWER DID IT EXERT TO LURE MEN WITHIN ITS WALLS???

The SKIN CRAWLERS

DARNTON'S FEET SEARCHED THE DARK STAIRS WHEN HE SAW...
THAT LIGHT.. IT'S WEIRD... GHOSTLY! SEEMS TO PULL AT ME!

THE STRANGE LIGHT DREW DARNTON LIKE A MAGNET AND SLOWLY HE STARTED DOWN THE STEPS...
WHAT AN UNUSUAL LIGHT? EVERYONE IS ASLEEP! I'LL GO DOWN NOW! MUST FIND OUT!

SLOWLY, CAREFULLY, DARNTON CRAWLED DOWN THE STAIRS AND STEPPED THRU THE LIGHTED DOOR INTO A WORLD OF HORROR
UGGH! GHASTLY! I-I'VE GOT TO GET AWAY BEFORE THEY SEE ME!

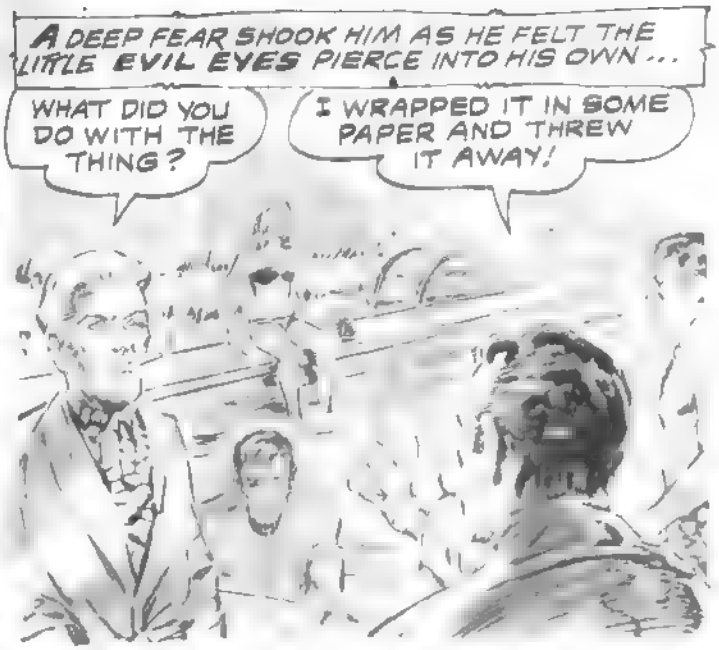
THE NEXT DAY...

HELP! HELP!

THIS IS THE LIFE! I'M GLAD YOU TALKED ME INTO COMING HERE! WHAT'S THE MATTER? YOU'RE NOT ILL?
NO, I'M O.K.!
NO SENSE TELLING ANYONE WHAT I SAW! THEY'D THINK I WAS MAD!

HEY, THERE'S A CATERPILLAR ON MY LEG!
I'LL GET IT OFF!

IT... IT'S THE SAME AS THE ONES I SAW IN THE ROOM! THEN I'M NOT MAD! BUT... THIS ONE IS SO SMALL WHILE THE OTHERS...


A DEEP FEAR SHOOK HIM AS HE FELT THE LITTLE EVIL EYES PIERCE INTO HIS OWN...
WHAT DID YOU DO WITH THE THING?
I WRAPPED IT IN SOME PAPER AND THREW IT AWAY!

YAH-H! IT'S STILL LIVING... IT'S IN THE POOL! I--I MUST GET OUT!

YOU'RE LOOKING TERRIBLE, JIM! IF YOU'RE NOT IMPROVED BY TOMORROW, I'M GOING TO CALL A DOCTOR! GOOD NIGHT!
THE LIGHT'S ON AGAIN: THIS TIME IT'S BRIGHTER!
...I MUST GET IN THAT ROOM AGAIN IF ONLY TO PROVE I WASN'T SEEING THOSE THINGS!
ER... ...GOOD NIGHT!

LATER AS DARNTON ENTERS THE ROOM HE WAS SHOCKED AS THE FETID CREATURES SILENTLY MOVE, SLITHERING LIKE WORMS TOWARD HIM.
THEY'RE AFTER ME! THEY... THEY'RE GOING TO KILL ME FOR SEEING THE ROOM... HELP... PLEASE...

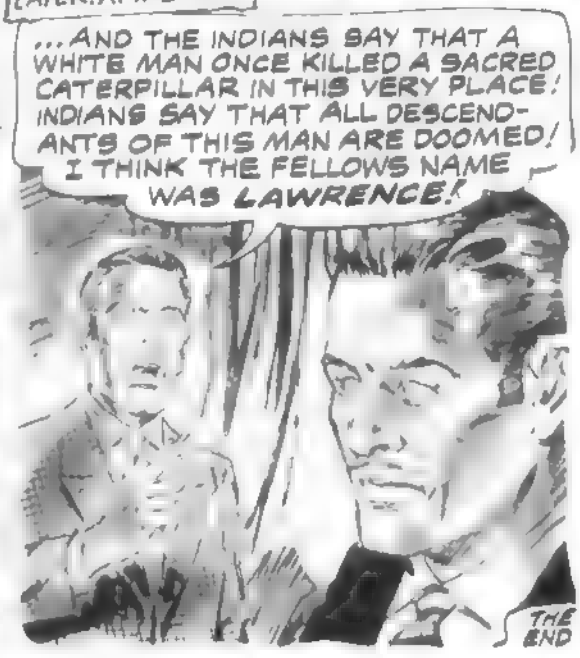
THE MOIST, SWAYING BODIES BRUSHED HIM! THE SLIMY WET HAIR OOZED THROUGH HIS CLOTHING, CHILLING HIM, BUT...
THEY'RE GOING PAST ME! I'M NOT GOING TO DIE! BUT WHERE...

DARNTON WATCHED IN HORROR AS THE CREATURES, ONE-BY-ONE ENTERED LAWRENCE'S ROOM...

POOR LAWRENCE! THE LITTLE INSECT POINTED HIM OUT! AND... I PERSUADED HIM TO COME HERE!
THROUGH THE SLEEPLESS NIGHT, DARNTON PACED THE FLOOR, PALE WITH FRIGHT! AT DAWN HE WENT TO LAWRENCE'S ROOM.

WHAT'S WRONG! YOU LOOK AS THOUGH YOU'VE SEEN A GHOST!
T-TOM!! Y-YOU'RE ALL RIGHT! I-I MUST BE GOING MAD! W-WE'RE LEAVING HERE, NOW!

A FEW DAYS LATER...
HE BECAME ILL THE DAY HE RETURNED FROM HIS VACATION! HE ASKED FOR YOU... WANTED TO TELL YOU SOMETHING, BUT (SOB) HE DIED BEFORE YOU GOT HERE!
I'M VERY SORRY, MRS. LAWRENCE! YOU SAY THE DOCTOR DIDN'T KNOW WHAT WAS THE MATTER WITH HIM? I'M GOING BACK TO THE INN WHERE IT ALL STARTED!


LATER, AT THE INN...
...AND THE INDIANS SAY THAT A WHITE MAN ONCE KILLED A SACRED CATERPILLAR IN THIS VERY PLACE! INDIANS SAY THAT ALL DESCENDANTS OF THIS MAN ARE DOOMED! I THINK THE FELLOWS NAME WAS LAWRENCE!
THE END

OUT OF THE DIM PAST IT CAME, THIS FANTASTIC MONSTER THAT COULD NOT BE KILLED.. FOR IT HAD BEEN REINCARNATED FROM ITS LAIR -- AND NOTHING COULD STOP IT!
the SLIMY THING
THE EXPEDITION HAD BEEN SUCCESSFUL, AND NOW RANDOLPH UREO, WAS ABOUT TO OPEN THE LARGE STONE BLOCK OF THE LOST CITY OF UR!
THINK OF IT, GENTLEMEN -- THE FAMED CITY OF THE FLOOD -- THE CITY OF UR, HAS BEEN FOUND AT LAST!
WELL... I'LL BE...! IT'S A KEY!
TRY THE KEY INTO THAT STRANGE LOOKING LOCK, RAND...! IT MIGHT WORK!

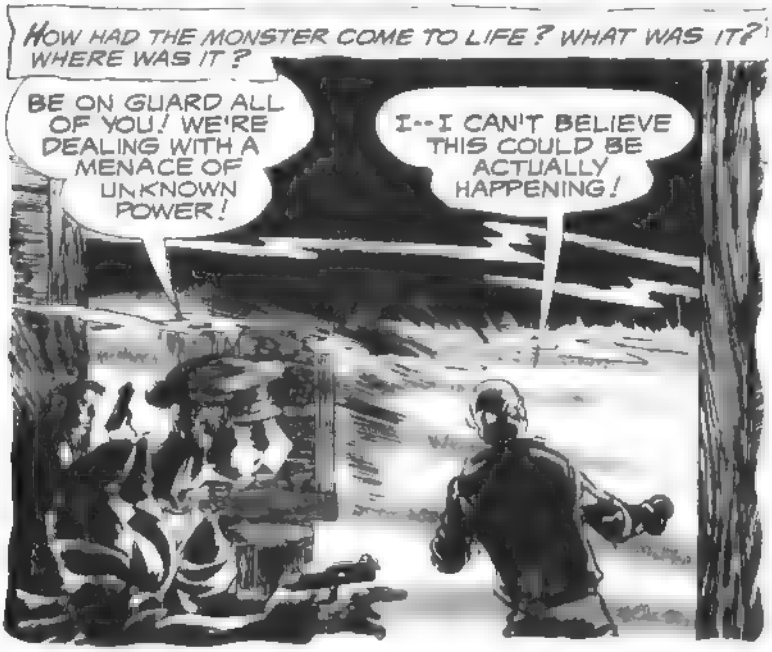
THE EXCITED SCIENTISTS LOST NO TIME! THE KEY TWISTED A TURN OF TERROR IN THE RUSTY LOCK AND SLOWLY THE HUGE DOOR SWUNG OPEN TO REVEAL...
IT--IT'S HORRIBLE!
NO! THIS IS THE GUARDIAN OF THE CITY, GENTLEMEN! THIS HORROR STOOD AS A BASTION AGAINST THE FOES OF UR IN ANCIENT TIMES!
THEN WE ARE ON THE VERY THRESHOLD OF A CIVILIZATION THAT HAS BEEN THOUGHT A MYTH!
YES! WE MUST TRANSPORT THIS BLOCK TO OUR SHIP AT ONCE!
THUS, THE OMINOUS-LOOKING SLAB OF STONE WAS PLACED ON BOARD...
I THINK WE'RE MAKING A MISTAKE, RAND!
NONESENSE, CARTWRIGHT! NOW DO AS I SAY! WE CAN'T WASTE TOO MUCH TIME!
THE JOURNEY BACK TO AMERICA WAS NOW IN ITS SECOND DAY! HANS CARTWRIGHT HAD BEEN UNCOMFORTABLE EVER SINCE THE BLOCK WAS PUT ON BOARD...
UMMMPHHH... I MUST SLEEP... I KEEP THINKING ABOUT THAT HORRIBLE CREATURE.. I
YAAAAAAAHHH

W-WHAT WAS THAT?
SOUNDS LIKE CARTWRIGHT!
YAAAAAAAA

COME ON! THE MAN MUST BE IN MORTAL TERROR!
HIS CABIN IS THE ONE ON THE LEFT! BE CAREFUL!

CARTWRIGHT-- ARE YOU-- GOOD LORD!
AAAAAGHHH-- THE MONSTER OF THE SLAB!

QUICK! GRAB THIS THING-- WHATEVER IT IS!
CALL THE CAPTAIN AND THE CREW!


HOW HAD THE MONSTER COME TO LIFE? WHAT WAS IT? WHERE WAS IT?
BE ON GUARD ALL OF YOU! WE'RE DEALING WITH A MENACE OF UNKNOWN POWER!
I--I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS COULD BE ACTUALLY HAPPENING!

LOOK! GREAT SCOTT! LOOK!

IT-IT'S TURNING BACK INTO STONE! SOME OCCULT FORCE HAS BROUGHT IT BACK TO EXISTANCE!

WHATEVER IT IS... IT HAS TO BE DESTROYED AT ONCE! PEARSON--GET THE DYNAMITE STICKS!
CARTWRIGHT WAS ONLY THE FIRST! IT PROBABLY INTENDS TO KILL ALL THE DESPOILERS OF THE CITY!

STOP, YOU FOOLS! WHAT IS THE LIFE OF ONE MAN WHEN WE HAVE THE SCIENTIFIC FIND OF THE CENTURY?
GET BACK, RAND! STAY AWAY FROM IT!

BUT BEFORE THE FANATICAL SCIENTIST COULD GET CLEAR...
AAAAAAGHH

AIIE! IT--IT'S COMING BACK TO LIFE AGAIN! IT'LL KILL US ALL!
RETREAT--ALL OF YOU! FIRE AT IT! USE ANYTHING YOU HAVE! HURRY--IT'S NEARLY OUT!

WATCH OUT FOR THOSE TENTACLES! ONCE THEY HIT YOU, IT'S DEATH!

IT WON'T DIE! I'VE HIT IT AT LEAST A DOZEN TIMES...
LOOK! THAT-- THAT CREATURE IS GROWING!

THERE'S A LIFE BOAT OVER HERE!
AAAGH! IT'S TENTACLES HAVE ME BY THE THROAT! AAAAGH!...

ALL HANDS PREPARE TO ABANDON SHIP!
HURRY-- HURRY! IT'S GROWING TO FANTASTIC PROPORTIONS! HERE--GIVE ME THE DYNAMITE!
THE

ROW, MEN! ROW! THE SUCTION WILL DRAG US DOWN IF WE DON'T GET CLEAR!
BUT NOW THE ENTIRE SHIP WAS DWARFED BY THE RAPIDLY-GROWING HORROR!
BANG

HERE GOES NOTHING! IF IT DOESN'T EXPLODE, WE'RE FINISHED!

YOU DID IT, JAMES! YOU'VE DESTROYED THE MONSTER!
I WONDER! THE LEGEND SAID IT WAS INDESTRUCTIBLE! CAPTAIN--WE MUST NEVER SPEAK ABOUT THIS EXPERIENCE TO ANYONE! THE WORLD WOULD LAUGH AT US!
BARROOOOMM

AMEN! LET IT BE FORGOTTEN AS IT WAS MEANT TO BE!
The End

CURSE of the VAMPIRE

VINCE FOWLER WAS A RUTHLESS, MONEY-MAD OIL TYCOON. WHEN ONE OF FOWLER'S TESTERS DETECTED THE BLACK GOLD BENEATH AN OLD INDIAN BURIAL GROUNDS, HE THOUGHT NOTHING OF DISRUPTING THIS LAST RESTING PLACE OF THE **DEAD**!

I'M TELLING YOU, BOSS, I DON'T LIKE THIS JOB OF **DISTURBIN' THE DEAD**! IT GIVES ME THE **CREEPS**!

BALONEY! A BIG GUY LIKE YOU, AFRAID OF THE **BONES** OF LONG-**DEAD** SAVAGES?

SUDDENLY

VINCE FOWLER! YOU WILL BE **CURSED** WITH **HORRIBLE PUNISHMENT** FOR THIS NIGHT'S **SACRILEGE**!

HUH? **WHAT?** WHERE DID **YOU** COME FROM, OLD HAG?

THIS WAS THE **BURIAL GROUND** OF MY FELLOW TRIBESMEN WHO ARE **FOREVER CURSED**, AND SO IS THE GROUND IN WHICH THEY **ROTTED**! NOW THAT SAME CURSE WILL BE UPON **YOU**, GREEDY ONE!

ARE YOU PUTTING ME ON, OLD LADY? WHY, YOU — WHERE IS SHE? SHE'S VANISHED! SEEMED TO MELT RIGHT INTO THIN AIR AND DISAPPEAR!

A MOMENT LATER, WHEN THE BURIAL GROUNDS WERE FINALLY CLEARED...
THE ONLY WAY TO GET RID OF THIS PILE OF HALF-ROTTED OLD INDIAN CASKETS IS TO BURN IT! GATHER 'ROUND FOR THE BONFIRE, BOYS!

MY EYES! THAT BLASTED BLACK, MUSTY SMOKE HAS BLINDED ME! I'M GETTING DIZZY! FEEL SO — SO STRANGE!

THE NEXT INSTANT, VINCE FOWLER SAW...
THAT GIRL — THAT INDIAN MAIDEN! SHE'S BEAUTIFUL — LIKE A PRINCESS! SHE'S SMILING, BECKONING TO ME! I-I FEEL DRAWN TOWARD HER!

THE INDIAN GIRL — MUST GET TO HER! LET ME GO! I DON'T CARE ABOUT THE FLAMES!
EASY, MR. FOWLER! YOU'D BURN TO A CRISP! THOSE SMOKE FUMES MUST'VE DRIVEN YOU MAD!

I-I'M ALL RIGHT NOW! DON'T SEE — HER — ANY MORE! MUST'VE BEEN A MIRAGE CAUSED BY THE SMOKE!

WEEKS LATER...
WE'RE MAKING PROGRESS! YOU'D NEVER KNOW THAT OIL FIELD USED TO BE AN INDIAN BURIAL GROUND! THINK I'LL STOP IN FOR SOME COFFEE!

GREAT SCOTT! SHE LOOKS LIKE THE SAME GIRL I SAW IN THE SMOKE AND FLAMES OF THE BURNING CASKETS! I — I DON'T UNDERSTAND!
COFFEE SIR?
WHAT'S YOUR NAME, BEAUTIFUL? I FEEL AS THOUGH I'VE KNOWN YOU FOR A LONG TIME, AND I'M CRAZY ABOUT YOU!
I'M MARIA. FUNNY BUT I FEEL THE SAME ABOUT YOU!
IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS FOWLER'S WHIRLWIND COURTSHIP SWEPT THE DARK AND LOVELY MARIA OFF HER FEET!
AND SO, THE FOLLOWING WEEK...
WHAT A HANDSOME COUPLE YOUNG FOWLER AND HIS BRIDE MAKE. SHE'S A LUCKY GIRL!
HE'S LUCKY, TOO! SHE'S SWEET AND BEAUTIFUL!
CREATURE OF EVIL! I CANNOT PERMIT THIS MARRIAGE! BACK TO YOUR GRAVE, FOUL BEING!
VINCE! STOP HER! SAVE ME!
DIE AGAIN! DIE! DIE! BACK TO YOUR CURSED GRAVE!
SHE'S STABBED MARIA! GRAB HER!
SHE STABBED YOU! I SAW IT, MARIA — YET YOU'RE NOT HURT! THERE'S NO WOUND!
YOU — ER — MUST'VE BEEN MISTAKEN, VINCE! MAYBE THE BLADE TURNED ASIDE AT THE LAST MOMENT.

A FEW HOURS AFTER THE STRANGE ATTACK AT THE CHURCH ...

WHAT DID THAT UGLY OLD CRONE MEAN, MARIA — CALLING YOU A *CREATURE OF EVIL* AND ALL THAT STUFF?

FORGET IT, VINCE! SHE MUST'VE BEEN **INSANE**!

ALL RIGHT, SWEETHEART! NOW, HOW ABOUT A KISS FROM MY NEW BRIDE? I — *MARIA*! WH-WHAT'S HAPPENING TO YOU? YOU'RE ***CHANGING***!

CHANGING, VINCE? HOW? I-I ***DO*** FEEL A LITTLE ***STRANGE***!

YOU-YOU'VE BECOME A **VAMPIRE**! THAT OLD CRONE WAS **RIGHT**! YOU ***ARE*** EVIL — OF ANOTHER WORLD!

BE CALM, MY HUSBAND! IT WILL NOT LAST LONG! BUT NOW I MUST LEAVE YOU FOR A WHILE!

NO, MARIA! YOU CAN'T

I *MUST* GO! GET OUT OF MY WAY! NOTHING CAN STOP ME!

A FEW MOMENTS LATER, AT THE DANCE HALL WHERE SOME OF FOWLER'S OIL WORKERS WERE CELEBRATING HIS WEDDING ...

WH-WHERE DID THAT CREATURE COME FROM? SHE'S A **VAMPIRE**! SHE'S KILLING JAKE! SOMEBODY HELP HIM!

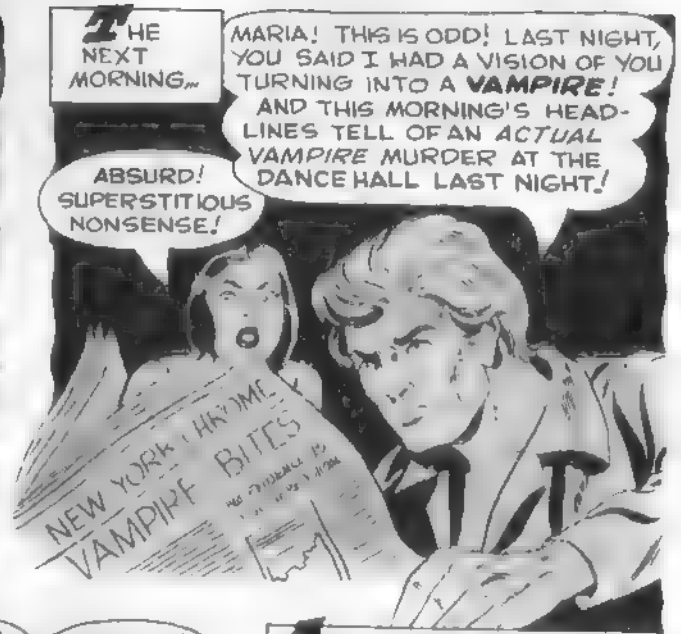
SHE'S GETTING AWAY!

HER MAD CRAVINGS APPEASED, MARIA RETURNED HOME, IN HER HUMAN FORM ONCE AGAIN ...

WH-WHAT HAPPENED? OOOOOH, MY HEAD!

EASY, DARLING! YOU HAD A STRANGE HALLUCINATION THAT I TURNED INTO A VAMPIRE! YOU GREW VIOLENT AND WHEN I STRUGGLED WITH YOU, YOU FELL AND BLACKED OUT!

YES, I-I DO REMEMBER SOME HORRIBLE VISION LIKE THAT! MUST'VE BEEN AS YOU SAID!
OF COURSE, DARLING! NOW RELAX AND REST, AND FORGET ABOUT IT!


THE NEXT MORNING...
MARIA! THIS IS ODD! LAST NIGHT, YOU SAID I HAD A VISION OF YOU TURNING INTO A VAMPIRE! AND THIS MORNING'S HEADLINES TELL OF AN ACTUAL VAMPIRE MURDER AT THE DANCE HALL LAST NIGHT!
ABSURD! SUPERSTITIOUS NONSENSE!
NEW YORK HERALD
VAMPIRE BITES

A LITTLE LATER...
I'VE NICKED MY FACE WITH THE RAZOR, MARIA!
YOU — YOU'RE BLEEDING! BLOOD!

BLOOD! THE SIGHT OF BLOOD DRIVES ME MAD! MAD! I MUST...
STOP IT! I'M VINCENT, YOUR HUSBAND! YOU- YOU WOULDN'T ATTACK ME!

AS FOWLER WIPED THE BLOOD FROM HIS FACE, MARIA CALMED DOWN...
YOU'RE RIGHT, VINCE! I DID BECOME A VAMPIRE LAST NIGHT!
HOW COULD SUCH A HIDEOUS THING HAPPEN? TELL ME ABOUT IT, MARIA!

OVER A HUNDRED YEARS AGO, I WAS AN INDIAN PRINCESS OF TAINTED BLOOD! I WAS CAUGHT PRACTICING VAMPIRISM, WAS EXECUTED AND BURIED IN THE CEMETARY OF EVIL! WHEN YOUR MEN DUG UP THE GRAVES AND BURNED THE CASKETS, A STRANGE THING HAPPENED!

THE FLAMES GAVE TEMPORARY PURIFICATION AND MY RELEASED SPIRIT, ACCORDING TO THE LEGEND OF THE CEMETARY OF EVIL, I INSTANTLY TOOK ANOTHER WOMAN'S FORM— A YOUNG AND BEAUTIFUL ONE!
THEN I WAS THE CAUSE OF ALL THIS!

YES, VINCE, AND NOW YOU MUST HELP ME! AN INDIAN WITCH WOMAN TRIED TO WARN YOU THE NIGHT YOU SAW ME IN THE SMOKE AND THEN TRIED TO DESTROY ME!
I WILL HELP YOU, MARIA!

THAT NIGHT...
BIND ME TIGHTLY, VINCE, SO THAT IF THE CHANGE COMES OVER ME AGAIN TONIGHT, I CANNOT GO TO KILL!
YES! PERHAPS THIS WAY WE'LL BREAK THE EVIL SPELL OVER YOU!

LATER...
BUT YOU MUST RELEASE ME! I'LL DO ANYTHING FOR YOU— GIVE YOU SUPERNATURAL POWERS!
NO! I-I CAN'T! PERHAPS IT WILL LAST ONLY A LITTLE LONGER! CAN'T LET HER HYPNOTIZE ME INTO FREEING HER! I MUST BE STRONG!

IT'S NO USE, VINCE FOWLER! THE CHAIN OF EVENTS YOU STARTED BY DESECRATING THE CEMETARY OF EVIL MUST GO THROUGH TO THEIR HORRIBLE FINISH! YOU CANNOT PREVENT IT!
YOU AGAIN! MARIA'S WITCH-WOMAN ANCESTOR!

YOU WENT AGAINST THE WISHES OF THE DEVIL-GODS BY DESTROYING THE BURIAL GROUNDS! NOW YOU MUST PAY THE PENALTY!
I'M GETTING CONFUSED — SLEEPY... WEAK-WILLED!

THERE — YOU'RE FREE! NOW GO TO YOUR EVIL WORK! IT IS THE ONLY WAY FOR THIS TO END NOW!
YES! YES! I WILL FIND MANY VICTIMS TONIGHT!

AND SO, MARIA SOARED VULTURE-LIKE THROUGH THE DARKNESS, STRIKING AT INNOCENT, TERROR-FROZEN VICTIMS, AGAIN AND AGAIN!

THE NEXT MORNING...
SOMETHING'S WRONG! I DIDN'T CHANGE BACK TO HUMAN FORM AT DAWN! AN ANGRY MOB HAS PURSUED ME HERE! HELP ME, VINCE!
YOU ARE HIDEOUS IN DAYLIGHT, MARIA! UGH!

WE FOLLOWED THE VAMPIRE HERE, FOWLER! WE DEMAND YOU TURN HER OVER TO US!
WHAT DISGRACE, WHAT HORROR YOU'VE BROUGHT TO ME, MARIA! I- I CANNOT STAND IT ANY MORE!

I'LL KILL YOU MYSELF!
NO! YOU ALONE CAN KILL ME! YOU, WHO GAVE ME NEW LIFE, ARE THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN DO THAT! I- I MUST FLEE YOU!

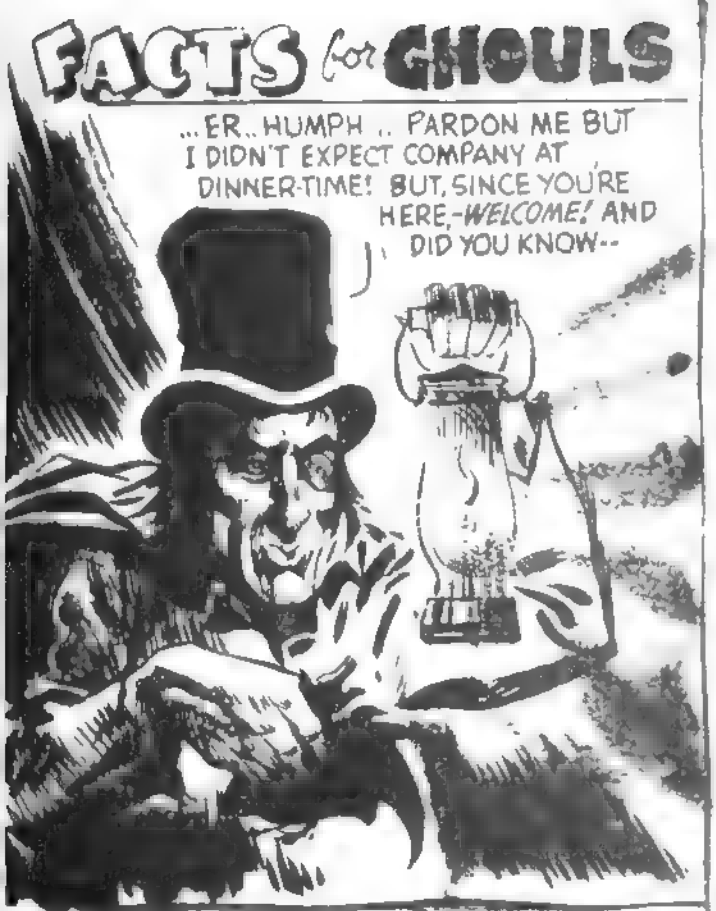
OUT OF THE HOUSE AND THROUGH THE MOB, FOWLER PURSUED HIS ACCURSED BRIDE. THE CHASE LED TO THE OIL FIELDS, WHERE...
SHE CANNOT ESCAPE ME! I MUST KILL HER!

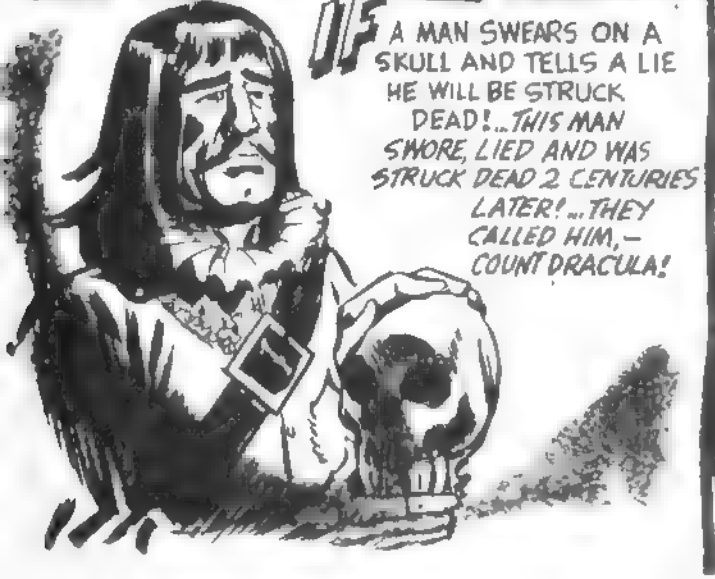
YOU CANNOT CAPTURE ME! I'M WINGED AND CAN FLY FROM —
ARRRRGGGH!
GOT HER!

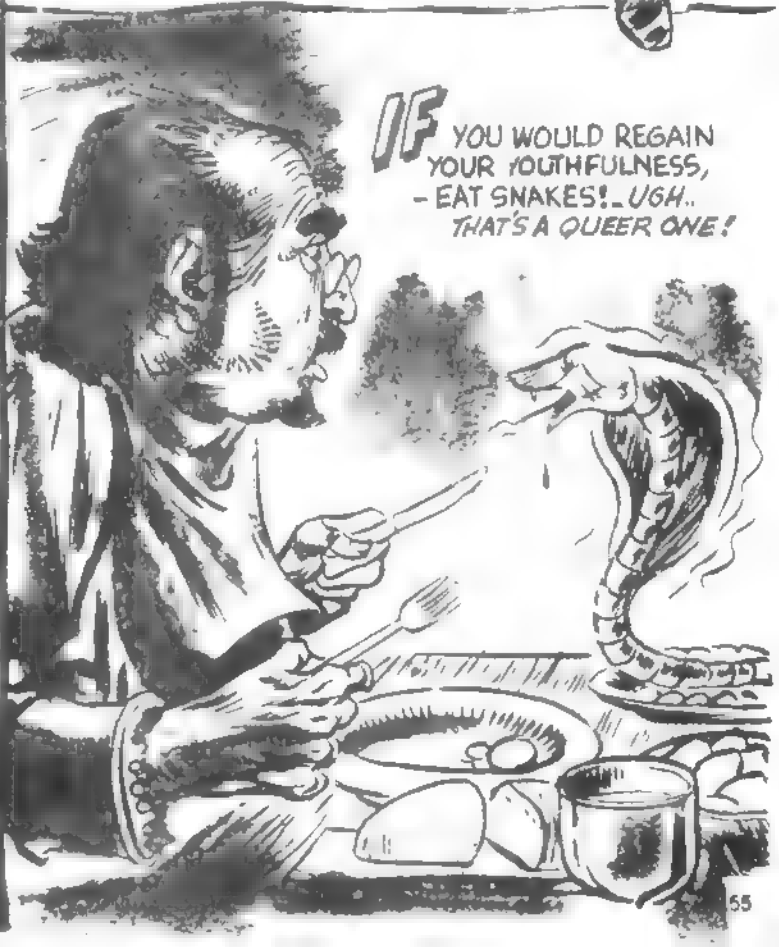
FOWLER'S LOST HIS GRIP! HE'S FALLING, TOO!

UGH! FOWLER'S DEAD, AND SHE'S NOTHING BUT MOLDY BONES AND ROTTED VAMPIRE WINGS!
HEH-HEH-HEH! IT HAPPENED RIGHT ON THE SITE OF MARIA'S FORMER GRAVE! THE GODS OF EVIL HAVE RECLAIMED THEIR OWN!
THE END

FACTS for GHOULS







THE HORROR DOLL

IF I KNOW KUMA'S TYPE, HE'LL MAKE A WAX DOLL TO REPRESENT YOU, AND WHAT HE'LL DO TO THAT DOLL WON'T BE PLEASANT!
AND WHAT HE DOES TO THAT DOLL WILL HAPPEN TO ME, EH? I SUPPOSE I SHOULD HAVE LET HIM BLACKMAIL US INTO LETTING HIM PROTECT US FROM THE JUNGLE SPIRITS! NONSENSE!
BUT FOR A FEW SMALL COINS, ALL MIGHT HAVE BEEN WELL! HOWEVER, THE EVIL GOD HAD BEEN SET IN MOTION! THAT NIGHT WILSON AWAKENED BURNS!
WILSON WHAT IS IT? WHAT'S WRONG?
THERE WAS A WIND SIGHING THROUGH THE TREES WHEN THEY FOUND SETON! A WHISPERING WIND THAT SEEMED TO CALL SOFTLY... LIKE AN UNEARTHLY VOICE!
THE THING TO DO IS TO ASK HIM!
THERE HE IS! THE FOOL! HE MIGHT HAVE GOTTEN HIMSELF LOST! WHAT'S HE DOING HERE?
SETON! HAVE YOU LOST YOUR MIND? YOU'RE A MILE FROM CAMP! WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN THIS JUNGLE?
VOICE? BURNS, TOUCH HIM! HE'S BURNING WITH FEVER!
SO THAT'S IT! WE'D BETTER TAKE HIM BACK TO CAMP AND GIVE HIM A STRONG SHOT OF QUININE!
THAT NIGHT SETON TOSSED RESTLESSLY! HE MUMBLED INCOHERENT WORDS! BY MORNING HE WAS DELIRIOUS!
THE QUININE HASN'T HELPED! WE'VE GOT NO CHOICE! WE'LL HAVE TO BREAK CAMP AND GET HIM TO A DOCTOR!
THE SOONER, THE BETTER! I'LL HAVE THE MEN PREPARE A LITTER!
BURNS! THE MEN ARE GONE! THEY SEEN THE BAT!... THE DEATH SIGN!
AFRAID OF THAT! THE TWO OF US COULD NEVER GET SETON TO THE DOCTOR IN TIME!

THE JUNGLE STILLNESS WAS BROKEN SUDDENLY BY A VOICE RAISED IN HORRIBLE AGONY..
THE PAIN.. I CAN'T STAND IT! AIEEE!
WHAT'S WRONG WITH HIM? IT CAN'T BE FEVER!
VE KNOW, EVEN IF WE DON'T ADMIT IT A MAN MIGHT SCREAM LIKE THAT IF HE WERE TORTURED, OR IF SOMEONE WAS TORTURING A WAX DOLL MADE IN HIS IMAGE...
SURELY YOU DON'T BELIEVE THAT KUMA IS AT THE BOTTOM OF THIS!
NO. I GUESS NOT! F ONLY WE HAD SOME MORPHINE, WE COULD AT LEAST DEADEN THE PAIN THE PAIN FOR HIM!
BUT WHAT WAS THERE TO DO? THE FIRST DAY SETON SUFFERED UNTOLD AGONY! THE SECOND DAY WAS EVEN WORSE!
ONE HUNDRED SEVEN! NO ONE CAN HAVE A FEVER THAT HIGH.. AND LIVE!
UNLESS THE FEVER IS INTENDED TO TORTURE, NOT TO KILL! WILSON, WE CAN'T LET THIS GO ON!
WE CAN'T HELP HIM UNLESS WE SURRENDER ALL REASON AND APPEAL TO KUMA AND HIS VOODOO GODS!
'OODOO! WE LAUGH AT IT, AND IT REACHES OUT OF THE DAWN OF TIME TO KILL US! IT'S REAL, WILSON!
KUMA SAID SETON WOULD DIE AT DAWN OF THE THIRD DAY! THAT'S ONLY A FEW HOURS FROM NOW! WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?
'M GOING TO KUMA'S HUT! 'M GOING TO ASK HIM TO GIVE ME THE DEVIL DOLL... IF THERE IS ONE! IN MY HANDS IT WOULD BE HARMLESS! YOU STAY WITH SETON!
BURNS WAS A MAN OF SCIENCE, AND YET HE SOON SAT CROSS LEGGED BEFORE AN EVIL SMELLING BLAZE. IN CONVERSATION WITH A PAINTED SAVAGE...
KUMA... WHAT DO YOU WANT.. MONE? I'LL ADMIT SETON WAS A FOOL.. BUT IS A FOOL WORTH KILLING?
BUT I HAVE NOT BEEN NEAR YOUR CAMP! HOW COULD I KILL HIM?

I BEAR NO GRUDGE WITH SETON! THERE IS NO DEVIL DOLL TO KILL HIM HERE!
YOU WOULDN'T BE FOOL ENOUGH TO KEEP ONE HERE! YOU KNOW THE LAW FORBIDS THEM!
KUMA I'LL PAY YOU WHATEVER YOU ASK TO STOP THIS BAD MAGIC!
I ADMIT TO NONE OF THIS! IF YOUR PIG OF A FRIEND LIES DYING, IT IS BY A MAGIC OTHER THAN MINE!
KUMA STUCK TO HIS STORY, BUT BURNS DIDN'T BELIEVE A WORD OF IT THAT'S WHY HE LINGERED IN THE AREA... LATER.
DAWN WAS STILL AN HOUR AWAY. THE HOUR SETON WAS TO DIE BURNS HAD TO WORK FAST.
I WAS RIGHT! HE'S GOT THE DEVIL DOLL! HE'S PLACING IT IN THE FIRE.
THE FIRE! SETON'S FEVER! OF COURSE... IT'S THE SAME!
WHAT AGONIES SETON ENDURED IN THOSE MOMENTS, BURNS WAS TO LEARN LATER.. HIS CHANCE CAME... AS KUMA SUDDENLY, LEFT THE FIRE...

OOPS! I HIT SOMETHING WITH MY STICK!
THE DOLL... I'VE GOT IT!
NO! THE FEVER INCREASED... HE BECAME A WILD MAN! I COULDN'T HOLD HIM...
HE RUSHED OUT AND FELL ON THE POINT OF A PICK-AXE... ONE OF THE MEN HAD LEFT
PIERCED HIS CHEST RIGHT UNDER THE HEART! IT HAPPENED AT DAWN, DIDN'T IT?
NO... I DID... WITH A STICK! WHILE I WAS DIGGING UP THE DOLL I PUNCTURED IT'S CHEST BY ACCIDENT! STRANGE COINCIDENCE, ISN'T IT...
THAT HOLE IN THE DOLL'S CHEST THAT'S EXACTLY WHERE THE PICK PENETRATED SETON'S CHEST! DID KUMA MAKE THAT HOLE?
THE END

THE CORPSE MACABRE

WHEN **DEATH** COMES FOR THE **GUILTY** THERE IS NO TURNING BACK FROM THE **BECKONING GRAVE**, THE **ENDLESS** DARKNESS, THE **FESTERING** HORRORS! THE PULSE **QUICKENS**... THE HEART BEATS **FASTER** AT THE **FEARFUL** SIGHT OF...

CAROLYN!! STAY **AWAY** FROM ME! DIDN'T I GIVE YOU THE **ROOM** YOU WANTED?

AT THE PRICE OF MY **LIFE!!** THE DEAD SPIRITS OF MY FAMILY WILL **AVENGE** ME!

IN THE BEDROOM OF THE WEALTHY DUNNS, THE HUSBAND SPEAKS WITH THE FAMILY DOCTOR-- AND LEARNS A ***SHOCKING*** TRUTH ABOUT HIS WIFE ...

AN INVALID! AND ALL THE MONEY IS HERS!-- THE INHERITANCE OF HER FAMILY BURIED IN THE TOMB! IF SHE WERE DEAD---

AND AS THE WEEKS PASS, THE THOUGHT OF VIOLENT DEATH BECOMES MUCH MORE REAL--AND MUCH MORE IMMEDIATE UNTIL IT BECOMES A MALIGNANT OBSESSION IN THE MIND OF THE INVALID'S HUSBAND...
I LOVE THIS ROOM, MILO! I DON'T EVEN MIND BEING HERE-- DAY AFTER DAY!
TOO BAD YOU CAN'T STAY HERE ANY LONGER-- FOR NOW YOU MUST--

--DIE!!
ARGGH!

I MUST FIND HER WILL NOW! SHE MUST HAVE LEFT THE ENTIRE ESTATE TO ME!.. BUT I'VE GOT TO BE SURE!

WHERE COULD SHE HAVE HIDDEN IT? AH, HERE IT IS!

"WHEN I AM DEAD, I WISH TO BE BURIED IN FAMILIAR SURROUNDINGS, AMID THE THINGS I LOVED. AND YET I WISH TO SLEEP AMONGST MY FAMILY IN THE TOMB!"...

AND SO THE HUSBAND, SATISFIED THAT HE HAS GAINED THE INHERITANCE, SETS ABOUT TO OBEY HIS WIFE'S STRANGE REQUEST!...
DO YOU UNDERSTAND--I WANT AN EXACT REPLICA OF OUR BEDROOM BUILT IN THE TOMB! NOTHING MUST BE CHANGED!
IF THAT'S THE WAY YOU WANT IT, MR DUNN!

AFTER LEAVING THE CONTRACTOR, THE HUSBAND RETURNED TO THE BEDROOM TO GAZE ONCE MORE AT THE MACABRE CORPSE OF HIS WIFE...

SOME TIME LATER...
HERE IS MY GIFT-IN-DEATH FOR YOU, MY DEAR! YOUR ANCESTORS REST BESIDE YOU---AND YOU ARE IN YOUR BELOVED ROOM!

TAKE GOOD CARE OF HER, YOU SPIRITS OF THE TOMB!! HA--- HA---HA!

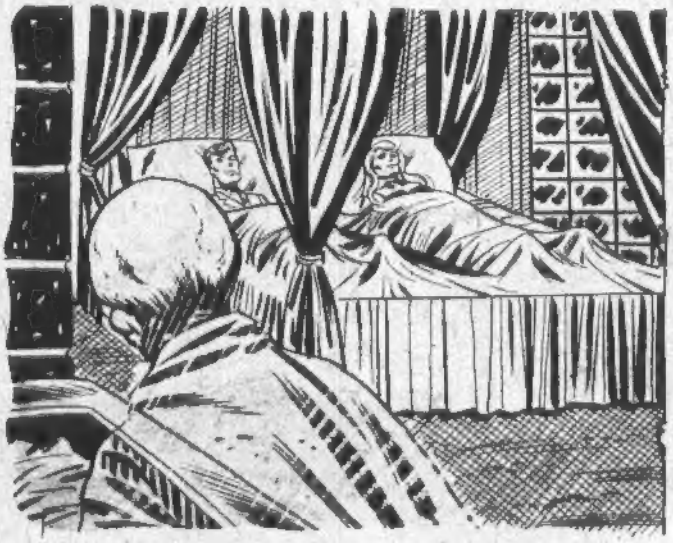
A MOMENT LATER, WITHIN THE DEATHLY SILENCE OF THE TOMB, A LIFELESS FIGURE BEGINS TO STIR--AND THE CHILL OF ETERNAL SLEEP BEGINS TO DISAPPEAR!...
WH-- WHERE-- AM--- I--- ??

THIS ROOM---IT'S MINE AND YET---TH-THE AXE!! MILO THINKS HE'S KILLED ME AND LEFT ME HERE FOR DEAD!

LET ME OUT! LET ME OUT!! I'M NOT DEAD! I CAN'T LIVE WITH THE DEAD!

I MUST STAY HERE UNTIL MILO'S CURIOUSITY FORCES HIM TO RETURN -- BUT, WHEN HE DOES, I WILL BE PREPARED TO GREET HIM! BUT WILL MY LOVING HUSBAND BE GLAD TO SEE ME? HA-HA-HA!

CONFRONTED BY THE WALKING SHROUD THAT WAS ONCE HIS WIFE, MILO RUSHES IN PANIC FROM THE DEADLY ROOM HE GREEDILY CREATED!



AND AS THE DEAD RETURN TO THEIR COFFINS THE WIFE RETURNS TO HER LIFE-IN-DEATH, JOINING THE CORPSE OF HER HUSBAND IN THAT TIMELESS WORLD FROM WHICH THERE IS NO RETURN!

...The END...